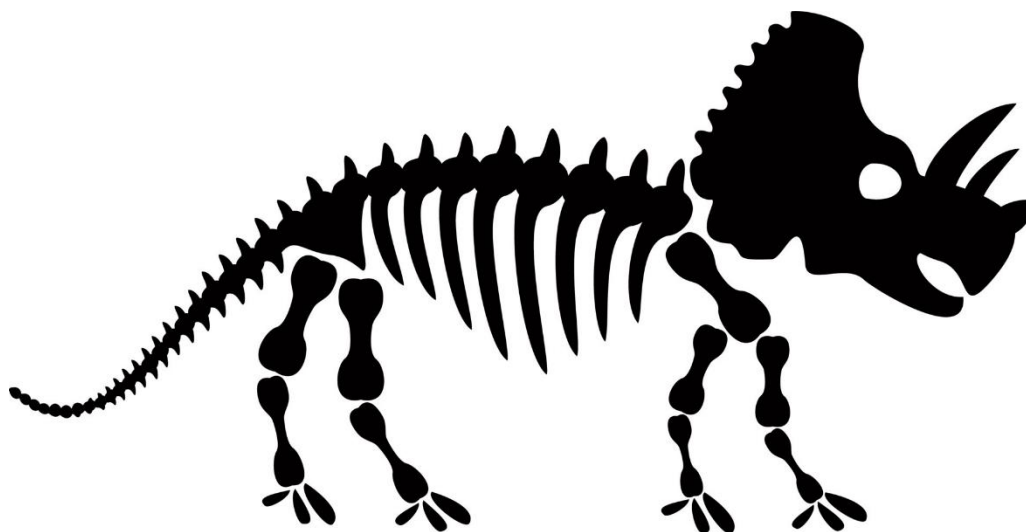


Dinosaur Detective Wide Game



What you will need:

- An outline tracing of the above picture onto a large sheet of paper with the bones painted in white
- A few pre-made bones to roughly match the size and shape of any of the bones in the above picture
- A space you could hide things (indoor/outdoor, or both)
- Any detective props you want (magnifying glasses/coats/notepad and pen/flashlight)
- Clue cards/props you can use as clues

Set Up:

- Hang your large dino image in a central location (preferably on a wall)
- Hide the dino bones and clues
- Get the kids dressed up and tell the story!

The Story:

You are all detectives who specialise in museum mysteries! The (name of your local museum) has asked for your help! This morning when they unlocked the doors to get ready for a busy weekend day of running the museum, they discovered someone had tampered with their Triceratops exhibition and hid the evidence! Work as a team to find clues and return the missing Triceratops bones back where they belong. *optional* Hurry, the museum opens in 1 hour!

Tips:

- You can choose to make all of the bones, stick most of them onto the paper and only hide a few (to make it look realistic). You could choose to only make a few bones and only paint in the bones that aren't made (to make it clear which bones are missing). Or you could choose to paint in all of the bones, only make a few bones, and just draw question marks into the missing bones.
- You can choose to make 3D bones out of newspaper and masking tape, or 2D bones out of white card.
- Turn off the lights to make it extra fun.
- You could include escape room type things like UV light clues, lock boxes and decoding clues.

With our group of Guides aged 9 to 11, in 2024 we decided to have a one-night sleepover during the school holidays to earn the Palaeontology badge. As well as our museum excursion, museum scavenger hunt, dinosaur themed activities, and dinosaur themed food, I decided to create a dinosaur themed wide game/escape room style activity for our Guides to do. I turned it into this document to share as a resource in case any other leaders wanted to try it with their Guides.

I will say that for my Guides aged 9-11, they found it quite challenging and needed many hints. I would recommend this resource for Guides aged 12-15 (although, this depends on how challenging you make your clues).

Caitlin Butterly (Koala)

of the Baywater Honey Bees WA

These are the clues I custom made to fit the space we were working with:

Hiding places:

- Under the stage on the table trolley
- In the oven
- In the blue room cabinets- lockable with bike lock
- Under the stage stairs
- In a craft box in the craft cupboard- lockable with key
- Under stacks of chairs in the chair shed- lockable with padlock
- In the cleaning cupboard- lockable with key or bike lock
- Buried in the sand pit
- Up in a tree

1. After explaining the instructions and story, hand the Guides an envelope with a letter inside and say “This mail was slipped under the door this morning addressed to ‘Detectives’, maybe this will help?”. The letter reads:
“Dear Detectives. I know you may think you can save the museum, but I have made this mission much too hard for you. The minds of all the detectives in the world are no match for my difficult clues! I have always hated museums, and this only marks the beginning of my museum tampering mayhem! ‘Work out this clue within your coven, you can find the first bone in the ____’
2. The Guides find the first bone in the oven and the next clue which reads, ***‘To find the next bone in its place of rest, take 10 steps south, and 10 steps west’***
3. The Guides find the second bone in the chair shed along with a key for the craft cupboard.
4. The Guides find the third bone in the craft cupboard with a trowel attached.
5. The Guides find the fourth bone buried in the sandpit, with a clue that reads ***‘In a place where light is bare, you’ll find the next bone under _____’***.
6. The Guides find the fifth bone under the stage stairs, with an invisible UV clue that reads ***‘Hidden in darkness all alone, the next bone is sitting on its table throne’***
7. The Guides find the sixth bone hidden on the table trolley with the key to the cleaning cupboard.
8. The Guides find the seventh bone hidden in the cleaning cupboard with the next clue which reads ***‘You’ve come this far? Well good grief! Look in the place of a leaf’***
9. The Guides find the eighth bone in a tree that has the key to the bike lock attached to the cupboard in the blue room taped to it.
10. The Guides find the ninth bone in the blue room cupboard. The Guides place all the bones into the Triceratops Exhibition and save the museum.

Dear Detectives,

I know you may think you can save the museum, but I have made this mission much too hard for you. The minds of all the detectives in the world are no match for my difficult clues!

I have always hated museums, and this only marks the beginning of my museum tampering mayhem!

*‘Work out this clue within your coven, you can
find the first bone in the _____’*

*To find the next bone in its
place of rest, take 10 steps
south, and 10 steps west*

*In a place where light is bare,
you'll find the next bone under*

— — — — —.

*You've come this far? Well
good grief! Look in the place of
a leaf.*

